

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 18, 34, 40 and 48 have been amended. Claims 3 and 34 have been amended to correct inadvertent clerical errors and not for reasons related to patentability. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in general throughout the above-captioned application and in particular, for example, as follows: claim 1, page 19, lines 10-11, claims 18 and 40, page 2, lines 20-23. No new matter has been added.

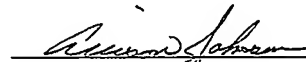
Claims 1-45 and 47-49 are subject to a restriction requirement. The claims have been grouped as follows: Group I, claims 1-24 and 48-49, and Group II, claims 25-45 and 47. Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-24 and 48-49, with traverse.

The claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should a teleconference interview facilitate prosecution of this application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment made to Deposit Account No. 501,171.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 10, 2007

  
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